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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 089793
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 SIG-03
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DRAFTED BY HA/ORM-WGMETSON:DFF
APPROVED BY HA/ORM-SCLOWMAN
AF/I-LSHURTLEFF
AF/W- KMCCORMICK
AID/RDP-MDILEGGE (INFO)
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O P 072058Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, BC

SUBJECT: MEDIUM-SIZED MOBILE FIELD HOSPITAL

1. EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT SUCH EQUIPMENT IS AVAILABLE ONLY ON A REIMBURSEMENT BASIS, AS IN PREVIOUS REQUEST FOR TENTS. NO USG FUNDS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AND COST WOULD HAVE TO BE MET BY UNHCR OR OTHER DONOR.
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2. WE ASSUME THAT WHEN EMBASSY SAYS MEDIUM-SIZE, A TWO HUNDRED BED HOSPITAL IS MEANT. THE UNIT THAT MOST NEARLY RESEMBLES IS A "MUST" (MOBILE UNIT, SELFCONTAINED, TRANSPORTABLE), ALSO KNOWN AS "CSH" (COMBAT SUPPORT HOSPITAL). IT CONSISTS OF INFLATABLE SHELTERS, MOUNTED ON DOLLYS SO THAT IT CAN BE SLIPPED INTO CARGO SPACE, AND

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IS AIRTRANSPORTABLE. IT INCLUDES EIGHT UTILITY PACKAGES SO THAT IT IS SELF-SUPPLIED WITH SUCH THINGS AS POWER AND COLD AND HOT WATER SYSTEMS. IT NEEDS TO BE HOOKED UP TO A WATER SUPPLY. IT WEIGHS 384,000 LBS, AND IS 36,554 CUBIC FEET. IT HAS 200 BEDS AND REQUIRES A STAFF OF 240.

3. ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS, IT WOULD COST DOLS 3.5 MILLION, AND MIGHT BE AVAILABLE IN 3 OR 4 DAYS. THE NEXT SIZE UP IS 400 BEDS AT ABOUT DOLS 5 MILLION. OTHER AVAILABILITIES MIGHT INCLUDE KOREAN WAR VINTAGE MATERIAL.

4. AN AMERICAN CREW SHOULD PROPERLY ACCOMPANY SHIPMENT TO SET UP THE HOSPITAL, ALTHOUGH INSTRUCTIONS ARE PRINTED IN ENGLISH.

5. TOTAL SIZE OF POPULATION WHICH COULD BE SERVED BY HOSPITAL DEPENDS ON SEVERITY OF MALADIES TO BE TREATED AND IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE.

6. IS THE RED CROSS REP MENTIONED REFTEL ICRC, OR BOTSWANA RED CROSS? WHO ARE THE CONTEMPLATED DONORS?

7. WHAT RUNWAYS IN BOTSWANA ARE LONG ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE C-130 AIRCRAFT?

8.IT APPEARS THAT US MILITARY AIRLIFT WOULD BE BEST TRANSPOR
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MEANS. USAF MAINTAINS SCHEDULED MAC C-141 FLIGHTS TO JOHANNESBURG WHICH COULD THEORETICALLY CARRY THIS EQUIPMENT. WOULD FLIGHT CLEARANCES BE AVAILABLE FROM SOUTH AFRICA IF CARGO HAD TO BE TRANSSHIPPED INTO SHORT-TAKEOFF AIRCRAFT? VANCE

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